



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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**TWO INDICTED FOR SOLICITING AND
RECEIVING HEALTH CARE RELATED KICKBACKS**

U.S. Attorney Paul I. Perez announced today the indictment and arrest of LENIN VIRGIL PEREZ, age 57, of Tampa and JOSEPH ANTHONY GONZALEZ, age 59, of Tampa on charges of conspiracy to solicit and receive kickbacks in connection with a federal health care program. The thirty-three count indictment also charges the receipt of kickbacks in connection with patient referrals for medical care under a federal health care program. If convicted they face up to five years' imprisonment on each count.

The indictment alleges that LENIN VIRGIL PEREZ, the former president of the National Association of Letter Carriers Union, Local 599, and JOSEPH ANTHONY GONZALEZ conspired to solicit and receive cash kickbacks from five health care providers in return for the referral of injured postal workers to the health care providers for medical treatment between 1998 and 2001. The cost for the medical care of the injured postal workers was to be paid by the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Worker's Compensation.

This investigation is being conducted by the United States Postal Inspection Service, the United States Postal Service - Office of Inspector General, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Department of Labor - Office of Inspector General. It will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey S. Downing.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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